

## HOW TO STUDY THE LESSON

Begin study early in the week. Often the very best time is on Sunday evening, after you have taught your class for the day. The mind is then active and runs easily in the line of Sunday-school work. The business or household cares of the week have not yet filled your thoughts. Besides, early attention paid to the lesson gives you all the more time to "chew the cud of meditation." With the text of the lesson in your mind, you can readily turn your thoughts to it, at any time during the week, when you have a few leisure moments. Some of the best teachers are busy men and women who have to take odd moments to think out their lessons.—*Peloubet's Notes.*

## Our Bible School

## PRAYER MEETING TOPICS

THE PROPHETS—ELIJAH

## I. Biography.

- a. Predicts drouth, because of the nation's sin. 1 K. 17:1.
- b. Fed by ravens and a widow. 1 K 17:6, 7, 15, 16.
- c. Raises the widow's son. 1 K. 17:17-23.
- d. After three years of famine, meets Ahab and reproves him. 1 K. 18:18.
- e. Meets the priests of Baal on Mt. Carmel in a trial by fire. 1 K. 18:20-39.
- f. Flees from Jezebel's wrath. 1 K. 19:1-4, 8.
- g. His despondency. 1 K. 19:9-14.
- h. Calls Elisha to be his successor. 1 K. 19:19.
- i. Reproves Ahab for taking Naboth's vineyard. 1 K. 21:20-24.
- j. Calls fire from heaven upon the messengers of Ahaziah. 1 K. 1:2, 10.
- k. Ascends in a chariot of fire to heaven, 2 K. 2:11.

## II. Life Lessons.

- a. Any one who lives godly shall suffer persecution. 2 Tim. 3:12.
- b. God is always on the side of him who tries to do right. 1 Peter 3:13; Rom. 8:31.
- c. A prophet is often misunderstood. 1 Cor. 4:10-13.

## BIBLE STUDY

J. L. GILLIN

If the Bible is God's revelation to man by means of words, and as such, the only means of knowledge of Jesus Christ, it behooves us to know its teachings. One of the hopeful signs of the times is the increasing interest in the scriptures. And it is not a superficial interest, not a desire to know them to bolster up some pet theory, but to know them with an unprejudiced yearning to learn just what they teach. Especially is interest awakening to see the events narrated in the Bible in the very surroundings of the time of their occurrence, rather than in the changed light of our own times and customs. As a result men and women are asking about those hitherto dry and uninteresting portions

of the Word, the prophets and the law and it means that the lay members are insisting on knowing more than can be learned from sermons on Sunday. It will necessitate schools of Bible study in which not men's opinions concerning the Word will be studied, but the Word itself.

Nothing can so stimulate inquiry and study and appreciation of the Bible as such a course. In our Bible school last fall, so many of the members expressed their surprise at the Bible's richness, and at their own ignorance of it, that I wished we could have such a course two or three times a year. Church service, prayer-meeting and Sunday-school is not adequate to the demands of the case. The prayer-meeting can and should be made a continuous and progressive study, but it necessarily must lack some interest that would attach to a daily study of the Bible. Nothing enlivens a church so much as a study of the Bible. Nothing convicts of sin like the old Word. Nothing stimulates vital Christian, spiritual life as a perusal of the scriptures.

A Bible school would, in my opinion, be a very fitting and effective introduction to a revival meeting. In no way, perhaps, can an interest be stimulated in the higher life, the Holy Ghost, the second coming of Christ, missions, personal work of disciples, and many other subjects, as can be in such sessions of study where the people read the scriptures on these points for themselves. No amount of talk, no flight of eloquence, no appeal to the emotions can take the place of the Bible which is the "word of God sharper than any two-edged sword." Try it, brethren, in every congregation.

## STRANGE BIBLE FACTS

The learned Prince of Granada, heir to the Spanish throne, imprisoned by order of the crown for fear he should aspire to the throne, was kept in solitary confinement in the old prison at the Place of Skulls, Madrid. After thirty-three years in this living tomb death came to his release, and the following remarkable researches, taken from the Bible and marked with an old nail on the rough walls of his cell, told how the brain sought employment thro the weary years:

In the Bible the word "Lord" is found 1,853 times.

The word "Jehovah" 6,855 times.

The word "reverend" but once and that in the ninth verse of the 111th Psalm.

The eighth verse of the 97th Psalm is the middle verse of the Bible.

The ninth verse of the eight chapter of Esther is the longest.

The thirty-fifth verse, eleventh chapter of St. John is the shortest.

In the 107th Psalm four verses are alike—the eighth, fifteenth, twenty-first and thirty-first.

Each verse of the 136th Psalm ends alike.

No names or words with more than six syllables are found in the Bible.

The thirty seventh chapter of Isaiah and nineteenth chapter of Second Kings are alike.

The word "girl" occurs but once in the Bible, and that in the third verse, third chapter of Joel.

There are found in books of the Bible, 3,548,483 letters; 773,693 words; 31,373 verses; 1,189 chapters, and 66 books.

The twenty-sixth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles is the finest chapter to read.

The most beautiful chapter is the 23rd Psalm.

The four most inspiring promises are John 14:2; 7:37; Matt. 9:28, and Psalm 37:4.

The first verse of the fiftieth chapter of Isaiah is the one for the new convert.

All who flatter themselves with vain boasting should read the sixth chapter of Matthew.

All humanity should learn the sixth chapter of St. Luke, from the twentieth verse to its ending.—*Our Sunday Afternoon.*

## SERMONS IN QUAIN TEXTS

BY THE EDITOR

Text: There arose a division in the multitude because of him. John 7:43.

In this one particular at least, things are very much the same as they were when Jesus was here on earth. He still divides the multitudes. Have you ever seen a crowd gathered together that was not divided in its opinion about Christ? Some love him, others hate him; some believe in him, others do not; some publicly confess him, others deny him. There are those who admit that Jesus was a great man, a prophet, that he did many great and wonderful things, they speak in the highest praise of his life and teachings, but they do not follow him nor consecrate their lives to his service. Others love him and trust him; they have accepted him as their Savior and are ready to lay down their lives for him. Then there are his open enemies, men who deny his divinity, and who see no beauty in his perfect life. Thus the world is divided now as it was then. And wherever the name of Jesus is proclaimed there will be divisions among the people. The word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword, and when applied it divides asunder society, communities, even members of the same family. In the very nature of things it must be so. We are either for or against Christ, we can not be both. In the community where you live there is division among the people as to their opinion about Christ. The question for you to settle in your mind is, Where do I belong? Am I for or against him? If for him, how do I show my allegiance? Have I publicly confessed him? Have I taken him as my Savior? Am I walking in ways of obedience? Am I now doing those things which please him? These questions properly answered will determine to which side of the house you belong.

Text: Lazarus was one of them that sat at meat with him. John 12:2.

It was the same Lazarus, who but a little while before was lying in the cold, dark grave. How comes he here enjoying a family feast? He was there by the power of